

16 February 1962

Dear John,

In confirmation of our recent conversation, I am hereby submitting my resignation from the Central Intelligence Agency. If convenient to you, I hope it can be effective as of the end of this month.

The years I have spent in this Agency have been among the most exciting and rewarding in my life and I am grateful that I have been allowed to participate in so challenging and rewarding an enterprise. I joined the Organization in 1954 in a mood of some skepticism about the importance of intelligence. I have come to feel that the many functions of this Agency include some of the most vital, difficult, and constructive tasks that have to be done by the U.S. Government in the interests of National security. I am full of regret that the time should now have come for me to disengage myself from them.

It has been a particular pleasure to get to know you better and to work with you in the last three months. I admire your wisdom and executive skill and it is a great satisfaction to be convinced, as I am, that the Agency is in such good hands. One of my greatest regrets in leaving it is that I will no longer have the privilege of working with you and with the many colleagues who have become my close friends in these years. I hope our paths will often cross.

With many warm personal regards.

Very sincerely yours,

[Redacted Signature Box]

Richard M. Bissell, jr.

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The Honorable John A. McCone  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington 25, D. C.